

PLAIN TALKS

December
1981



MAIL BOX

THE COVER

All she wants for Christmas are a toy stove, sink and refrigerator! But, then, at age 4, Misty Roberts still has her two front teeth.

The daughter of Joe and Ruth Roberts of Beaumont enjoys the lights and the excitement surrounding the holiday season. Her father, an 11-year GSU veteran, is a senior engineering assistant in the Estimating Department.

Misty has one sister, 8-year-old Tiffany.

The cover photograph of Misty was taken by Ken Haynie of Public Affairs.

Gulf States Utilities Company
Port Arthur, Texas

Dear Ms. Reed and Mr. Kasper:

Thank you for a very fine program on Nov. 2. Mr. Kasper does an outstanding job of interesting and informing students.

We look forward to another such program next year.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Grimes
Central Junior High
Nederland, Texas

Editor's Note: A schoolteacher, Ms. Grimes was referring to a program presented by Kathleen Reed of Port Arthur Division Consumer Services and Ed Kasper of System Consumer Services.

Roberta Plant
Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas
Dear Roberta,

Thank you for arranging the field trip to Lewis Creek Power Plant. When we got back to school, the young ladies again expressed their interest in the plant and complimented the guides for their knowledgeable tour. It was the first time any of these students had seen a power generating

plant. Therefore, the tour was interesting as a first-time experience, interesting as an impressive sight in the very size of the boilers and generators and was rewarding because these future teachers are more keenly aware of the cost of electrical energy and the need to conserve.

The plant personnel at Lewis Creek are most gracious. We came away with the feeling we had done these people a favor, instead of the other way around. In fact, every person I have contacted from Gulf States Utilities has had this same gracious spirit.

Sincerely,
Louise McCormick

Home Economics Department
Sam Houston State University
Editor's Note: Ms. Plant is a consumer services representative for the Western Division based in Conroe.

Roberta Plant
Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas
Dear Roberta:

On behalf of the Area VIII Young Homemakers of Texas, I want to express my appreciation to you for your excellent participation in our Annual Area VIII Young Homemakers of Texas gathering on Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Madisonville High School in Madisonville, Texas.

You really out-did yourself on the refreshments. The table looked so inviting and the food was very good. Many of the people left home so early in order to arrive in Madisonville, they had to skip breakfast. To be greeted with a hot cup of coffee, sweet rolls and orange juice started the meeting off on a good note.

Please call me to help you sometime.

Sincerely,
Ruth Wingo
Homemaking Education
Texas Education Agency

PLAIN TALKS

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-79) and return them to the mailroom in the Wilson Building. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addressed must be corrected when employees move.

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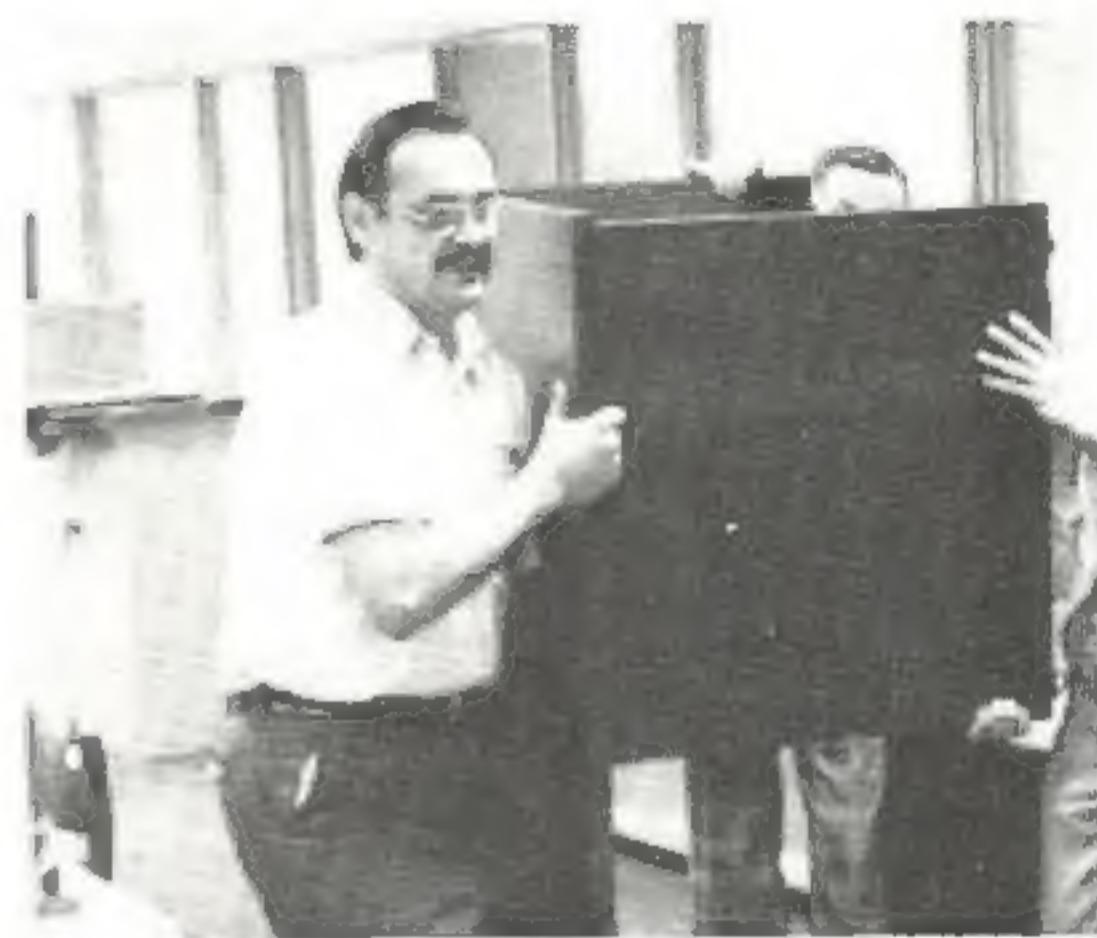
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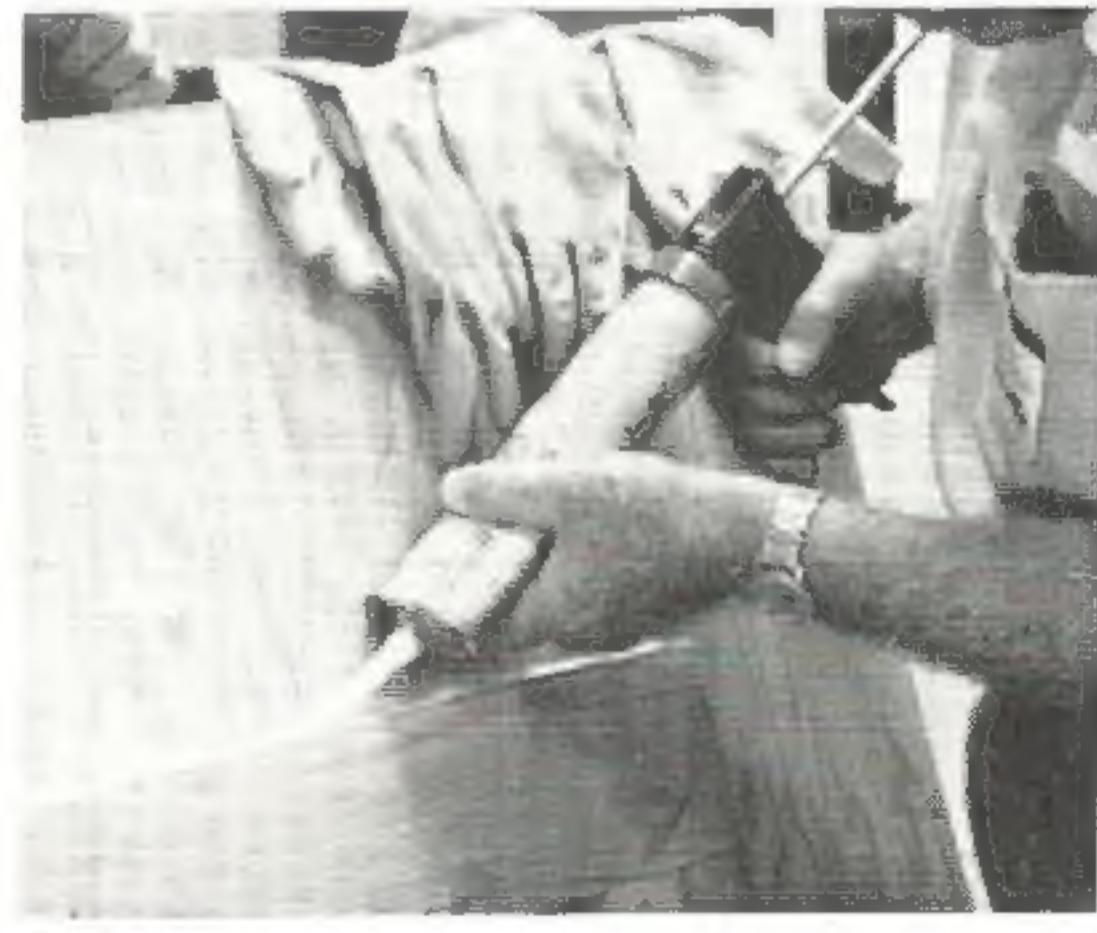
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NEWS BRIEFS



Mitchell saves child's life

Larry Mitchell, an engineering assistant in Conroe, recently received the President's Life-saving Award for saving the life of a 5-month-old girl after a fiery collision that occurred on Interstate 45 last summer.

GSU President Norman Lee made the presentation at the Western Division headquarters.

Mitchell was honored with the plaque because of action he took Aug. 17 at the site of an accident involving two 18-wheeler trucks. One of the vehicles, a diesel tank truck, was on fire as Mitchell drove past the scene.

The baby, traveling with her family in an automobile, was not directly involved in the accident. Traffic was stalled, however, at the accident site, and the infant had been overcome by fumes.

Mitchell noticed the baby's father shaking the child. After stopping his car and backing up, Mitchell administered CPR to the baby. The child started breathing again after a few moments and then was aided by the ambulance crew when it arrived.

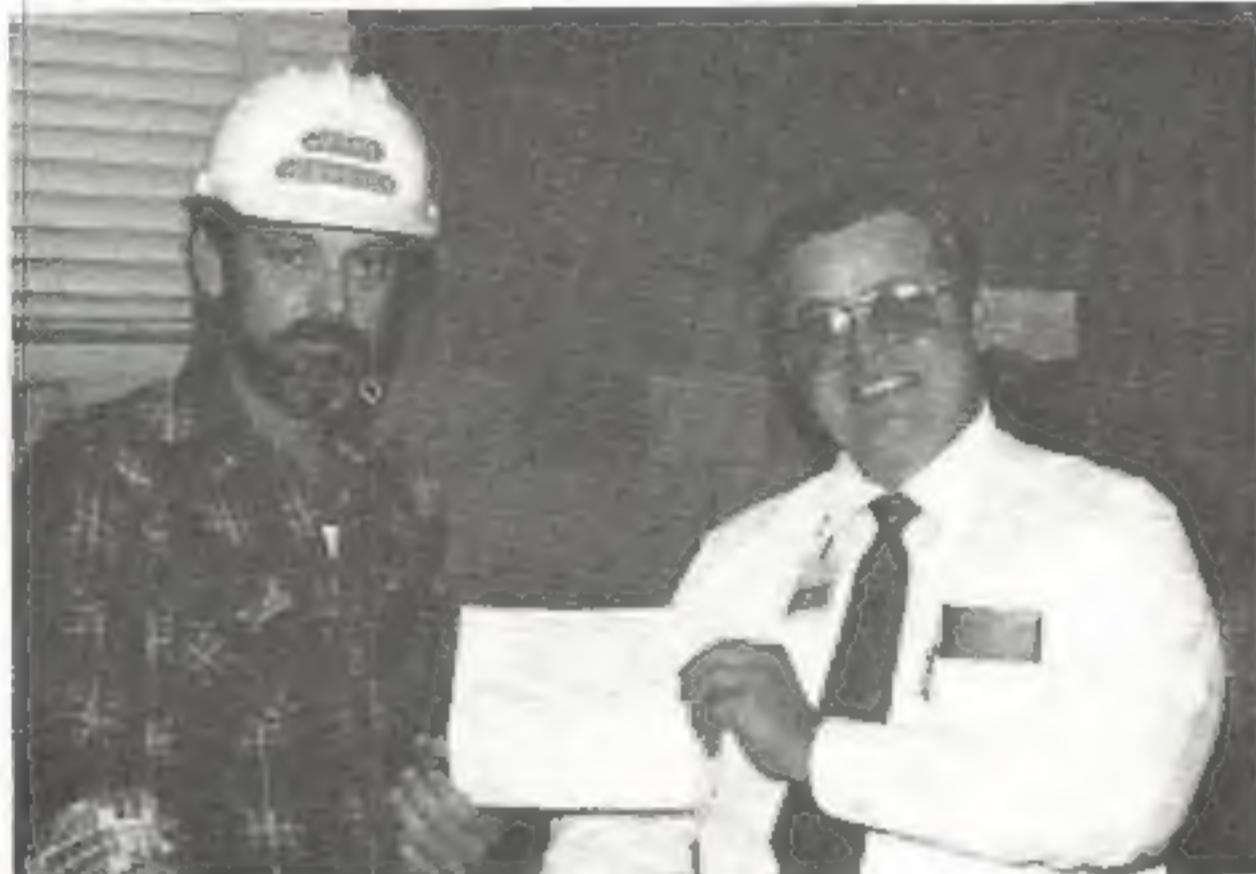
The baby's parents had been enroute to their home in Illinois when the accident happened. They were able to continue their vacation trip after their child was treated at a nearby hospital.

Mitchell, who had been trained in GSU's American Red Cross CPR course, said he was extremely glad he was able to apply what he learned from the safety training.

Man devises new method

While internal inspections were underway on Louisiana Station units 7 and 8, thermocouples were installed in the two high-pressure turbine casings so the temperature could be closely monitored during cycling operation.

In order to install the thermocouples, holes had to be drilled into the turbine casing, then stress-relieving grooves about one-half inch square had to be cut around the holes.



Both the tool and the method of cutting the stress-relieving grooves are what earned Wayne Desselle, repairman-1st class, \$500 in the Employee Suggestion Program.

The cost of following Desselle's suggestion was \$9,200, but similar work performed on another unit in the system by a contractor had cost the company almost \$20,000, it was estimated.

Desselle's method is expected to be utilized throughout 1982, when Louisiana Station's unit 9 and several other units in the system are scheduled for the same modifications.

Callahan cited for suggestion

Alvin Callahan of Sabine Station (shown at right) received 5,000 safety points for suggesting installation of a wind sock at the plant's chlorine house.

Made under the Employee Suggestion Program, the proposal points out that the wind sock would indicate the wind direction



if there were to be a chlorine leak.

Making the presentation to Callahan was Perry Walker.

Cotton receives safety points

Gene P. Cotton, lead chemist for the System Laboratory, was awarded 5,000 safety points for a proposal he made under the Employee Suggestion Program.



A. L. "Pat" Brady, Cotton's supervisor, is shown making the presentation to Cotton (shown at left). Cotton had suggested forming emergency teams in power stations. The system lab is based at Sabine Station.

A Touch of Christmas

Wayne Dunham adds his creative touch to the bright, glittery Christmas decorations in Port Arthur Division offices each year.

This year's creations revolve around storybook characters, with Dunham having designed, cut and painted the plywood figures. A year ago, his decorations focused on Santa Claus parachuting to earth. (Most decorations are used over and over.) Since Dunham, a division operator in the Transmission and Distribution Department, is based in the service center next to the division headquarters, employees in the division's mid-county office told him they felt "a little neglected." As part of his effort to make amends, the little storybook characters were to be on display there through the end of the year. Dunham also handles the decorations for the division's annual service award banquet.

No amateur, Dunham has indulged the artistic side of his nature for years. "It's an outlet. I can't remember when I wasn't doing something," he noted.

Dunham recalled that he was fortunate in having parents who "encouraged me" once they recognized that he had "a knack" for creating things. As an 8-year-old, he would make puppets, build a stage and hold a puppet show, charging young spectators a dime apiece for admittance.

In addition to the Gulf States' decorating projects, Dunham also decorates a 20-foot tree in the lobby of First National Bank every year. He has helped prepare the sets for Port Arthur's annual Cav-OILcade extravaganza for the past 28 years. Until recently, Dunham was a principal designer for the community's Little Theater group. He designed 54 sets over a 20-year period.

As if that weren't enough to keep his hands busy during his days off — Dunham is on a



rotating shift work schedule — the 31-year GSU veteran said he gets "a couple of calls a week" from people wanting his advice or his help in decorating their homes.

Dunham began his Gulf States career at the now-defunct Lakeside Power Plant. His service was interrupted with a four-year hitch in the U.S. Air Force, but he returned to the power plant for a few years before moving into the service center.

Christmas is one of Dunham's favorite times. "I love to wrap really elaborate packages that can be plugged in and made to light up," he revealed. Sometimes the packaging is more fun than the actual gift, he admitted.

A collector of sea shells, Dunham enjoys transforming

some of his finds into shell-studded picture frames. He also paints.

Creativity seems to run in the Dunham family. The walls of Dunham's house feature little sketches of cats — drawings done by his sister, Lorraine, as she watches television. Miss Dunham is also a GSU employee.

"Cav-OILcade is the big project of the year," Dunham asserted. "I like doing props when whoever is managing it wants to spend some money. The more money you have, the more you can make it look really top-notch."

Even so, Port Arthur Division employees claim that Dunham has almost performed miracles by adding his Christmas touch to their decorations of the season.

GSU, Service Club To Band Together In Special Project

In the Western Division in 1982, GSU will band together with the Conroe Kiwanis Club in weatherizing the homes of at least 12 senior citizens. One home will be weatherized each month, using low-cost methods.

According to GSU consumer service representative Connie Calfee, the project will help senior citizens with limited resources make their homes more energy efficient.

Application forms for the project are being distributed by Lucille Bradley, outreach director and coordinator for the Montgomery County Committee on Aging.

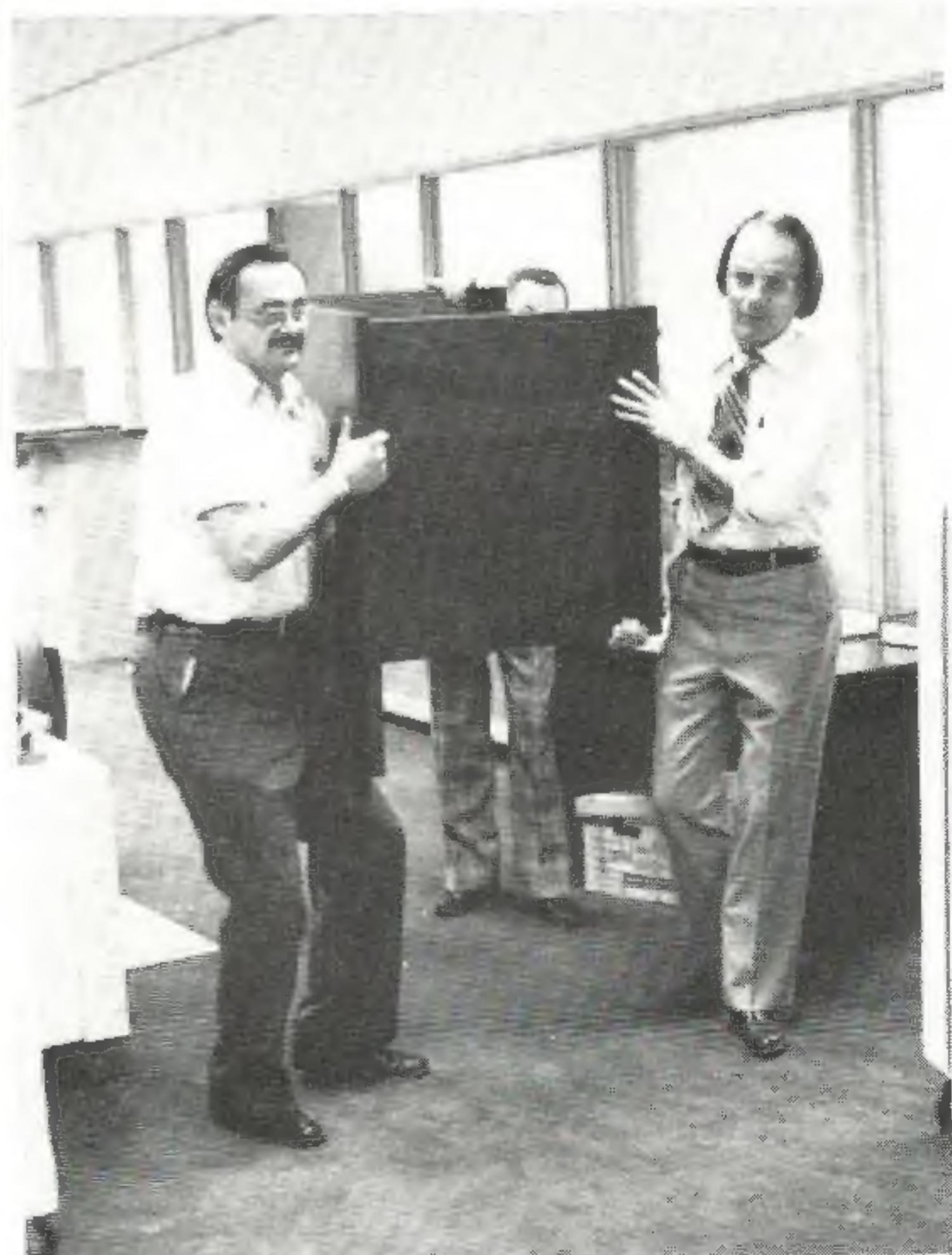
The Kiwanis chapter has allocated \$50 per house for the project. As the project is set up, a Gulf States consumer service representative will first visit a selected home to make recommendations for weatherization steps. Caulking and weatherstripping are among the energy-saving steps that will probably be taken.

In order to qualify for weatherization under the program, an applicant must be 60 or over, own a house or mobile home, reside in Conroe or within a five-mile radius of the city and have an income of no more than \$6,000 per year.

Move Begins to New Headquarters



Dr. Linn Draper works on, oblivious to the unfinished state of his new office.



As the move to Edison Plaza began in mid-December, Gulf Staters Bob Chapman (left) and Ron Cunningham doubled as moving men.

The Heimlich Maneuver: A Lifesaver



A lowered head and a hand pressed to the throat are recognized as the universal signal for choking.



Gene Russell, safety representative, demonstrates the proper method for administering the Heimlich maneuver on "choking victim" Marshall Gordon, employee benefits specialist.

Forty-three Gulf Staters have received the President's Life-saving Award during the past four years and seven of those recipients were recognized for their employment of the Heimlich Maneuver.

An estimated 4,000 Americans lose their life each year "simply because so few people know what to do when someone begins choking on a piece of food or some other object," said Mike Durham, manager — occupational health and safety for GSU.

The problem begins when a large object lodges in the trachea, or windpipe, instead of entering the esophagus or gullet. A small piece of meat or fruit, or even a softer food, such as lettuce, may cause partial obstruction of the airway. However, a larger piece too big to enter the windpipe often lays on top of the opening, completely blocking it so that no air can reach the lungs.

When this occurs, by-standers often fear the victim is having a heart attack. And because it frequently happens in restaurants, it has been widely publicized as the "cafe coronary." If first aid is not quickly administered, death from asphyxia — smothering — will occur in four to five minutes.

The choking comes without warning, while the victims are eating — and usually laughing or

talking. Suddenly, they cannot breathe, talk or swallow and turn pale, blue or black.

The inability to speak is the real tip-off. All that is necessary to recognize this emergency is to ask, "Can you talk?"

It is at this point the Heimlich Maneuver should be employed. The principle of this procedure is to force air out of the lungs, in the process dislodging the morsel of food or other object blocking the breathing passage.

Here are the steps to follow if the victim is sitting or standing:

- Stand behind the victim and wrap your arms around his waist.
- Form a fist with one hand and grasp it with the other hand, placing the thumb side of the fist against the victim's abdomen, slightly above the navel and just below the rib cage.

• Press your fist into the abdomen quickly with an upward thrust. This will push the diaphragm up, forcing air out of the lungs and expelling the object.

- Repeat several times if necessary.

If the victim is lying down:

- Put him on his back and kneel astride his hips.
- With one of your hands on top of the other, place the heel of the bottom hand on the

abdomen slightly above the navel and below the rib cage.

- Press into the victim's abdomen with a quick upward thrust.
- Repeat several times if necessary.

A person who chokes when alone should try anything that applies a sudden upward force just below the diaphragm, such as falling onto the edge of a table, countertop or chair. The purpose is to cause the stuck object to pop loose.

To prevent getting yourself in a situation where the maneuver is needed to save your life:

- Use good table manners and common sense so you won't choke in the first place.
- Cut your food into bite-sized pieces, chew slowly and thoroughly.
- Avoid too much alcohol before eating and don't eat and laugh at the same time.

Knowing how to react by using this simple and effective method could mean the difference between a close call and the senseless loss of life. Reducing the toll of choking deaths is a goal worth working for, Durham said.

SERVICE AWARDS

20
years



Neva S. Helton
Division Accounting
Corrigan

10
years



Alton R. Bryer
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Betty T. Lebert
Accounting Services
Beaumont



John H. Carr Jr.
Division Accounting
Baton Rouge



Hardy B. Lee Jr.
Gas Department
Baton Rouge

LIBRARY LINES

Microform Preserves Documents

Microforms are among the special types of materials maintained by the Corporate Library.

The word microform refers to the process for reproducing printed matter in a much reduced size, and also refers to the matter produced through that process.

Most back files of periodicals and government reports appear on microfiche (sheets of microfilm containing rows of microimages of pages of printed matter), but some documents are preserved on reels of microfilm.

The collection includes complete back files of the *Federal Register* and the *Code of Federal Regulations*, some Census Bureau statistics for 1960 and 1970 and limited runs (usually for the period from 1975 until the present) of important periodicals.

The Corporate Library is equipped with a microfilm reader/printer and two microfiche readers.

DOE/RECON System

An on-line information retrieval system for the U.S. Department of Energy, developed by the Technical Information Center in Oak Ridge, Tenn., has been dubbed the DOE/RECON system.

The center has bibliographic control of DOE-originated information, as well as worldwide literature on scientific and technical advances in the energy field. It announces the source and availability of such information. Although the literature of science is emphasized, coverage is extended to DOE programmatic, socio-economic, environmental, legislative/regulatory energy analysis and policy-related areas.

The most comprehensive data base offered is DOE's Energy Data Base, but there are 13 others covering topics such as research-in-progress and environmental

teratology (the study of malformations, monstrosities or serious deviations from the normal type in organisms).

New Books

Writing That Works, by Kenneth Roman and Joel Raphaelson. Harper & Row, 1981.

Energy, Vulnerability and War, by Wilson Clark and Jake Page. W. W. Norton, 1981.

Managing Personnel and Performance: An Alternative Approach, by Roger Bennett. Wiley, 1981.

Multiple Criteria Decision Making, by Milan Zeleny. McGraw-Hill, 1982.

Creating the Corporate Future: Plan or be Planned For, by Russell L. Ackoff. Wiley, 1981.

Nuclear Witnesses: Insiders Speak Out, by Leslie J. Freeman. W. W. Norton, 1981.

Violet Dugas: Collects Recipes



Violet Dugas writes down recipes from the latest issue of *Cuisine* magazine.

Violet Dugas enjoys collecting recipes and usually attempts a couple of new ones each month. Pastries are her favorite.

You wouldn't guess that by looking at Mrs. Dugas — a willowy brunette who hardly fits the image of the rotund chef.

But, nevertheless, her cooking skills helped her win the exotic foods category of a recipe contest sponsored by the Beaumont Enterprise and Journal earlier this fall. The 3½-year GSU employee now plans to "change the sauce a little" for that winning Chinese dish. An engineering assistant in the Relay Design Department, she is married to Gary Dugas. Her husband also enjoys cooking, specializing in gumbo, she reveals.

Recalling that she has cooked since she was 10 or 11 years old, Mrs. Dugas says she has two younger brothers who devoured her creations. Not only does she vary some recipes, but she also invents her own recipes for spaghetti sauce and a variety of meats with gravies.

Presently, she plans meals a week at a time, and admits that she is looking forward to when she can begin "planning healthy meals

when I have a child."

For now, she and Dugas are busy collecting some gourmet cooking items — "things an ordinary kitchen wouldn't have."

For Christmas, Mrs. Dugas plans to serve roast turkey with apple stuffing. She is substituting turkey for goose, which was the fowl used in the original recipe, which follows below. The couple will polish off her version of Southern Pecan Pie for dessert that day.

Roast Goose

Germans call this dish Gansebraten mit Apfelfullung (Roast Goose with Apple Stuffing) and frequently serve it with red cabbage or sauerkraut and applesauce. Roast goose is traditional Christmas fare in many northern European countries, including Austria, where the fowl is served with pureed chestnuts. The recipe serves six to eight persons.

1 ready-to-cook goose (eight-10 pounds)
2 cups water
1 small onion, sliced
1½ tsp. salt
6 cups soft bread crumbs
3 tart apples, chopped
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 med. onion, chopped
¼ cup margarine or butter, melted
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground sage
½ tsp. ground thyme
¼ tsp. pepper
1 tsp. salt
½ cup all-purpose flour

Trim excess fat from goose. Heat giblets, water, sliced onion and 1½ teaspoons salt to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer until giblets are done, about one hour. Strain broth; cover and refrigerate. Chop giblets; toss with remaining ingredients except one teaspoon salt and the flour.

Rub cavity of goose with one teaspoon salt. Fold wings across back with tips touching. Fill neck and body cavities of goose lightly

with stuffing. Fasten neck skin of goose to back with skewers. Fasten opening with skewers; lace with string. Tie drumsticks to tail. Prick skin all over with fork. Place goose breast side up on a rack in a shallow roasting pan.

Roast uncovered in a 350-degree oven until done, three to 3½ hours, removing excess fat from pan occasionally. Place a tent of aluminum foil loosely over goose during last hour to prevent excessive browning. Goose is done when drumstick feels very soft. Place goose on heated platter. Let stand 15 minutes for easier carving.

Pour drippings from pan into bowl. Return one-fourth cup drippings to pan. Stir in flour. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until smooth and bubbly. Remove from heat. Add enough water to reserved broth, if necessary, to measure two cups. Stir into flour mixture. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir one minute. Serve goose with apple stuffing and gravy.

Recipe may be adapted to substitute small turkey in place of goose. Cooking time may need to be increased or decreased, depending on whether the turkey has been pre-cooked.

Southern Pecan Pie

1 cup sugar
1 cup light Karo syrup
½ cup margarine
4 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup pecan halves
one 9-inch unbaked pie shell

Combine sugar, syrup and margarine in a small saucepan. Cook over low heat. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Cool completely. Add eggs, vanilla and salt and blend well. Pour mixture into pie shell and top with pecans.

Bake in 325-degree oven for 55 minutes. Cool before slicing. Yields one nine-inch pie.

Volunteers Spread Weatherization Word

Volunteers from half a dozen social service agencies in Port Arthur, Beaumont, Orange and the mid-county area are out spreading the weatherization word after participating in a "hands-on" seminar conducted by Port Arthur Division Consumer Services in November.

Fifty-two participants, including a few GSU retirees and students from the Program for Human Services in Orange, learned how to install insulation, weatherstrip a door, read a meter, make their own storm windows and other low cost methods of "tightening up" a residence to

keep heating and cooling costs down.

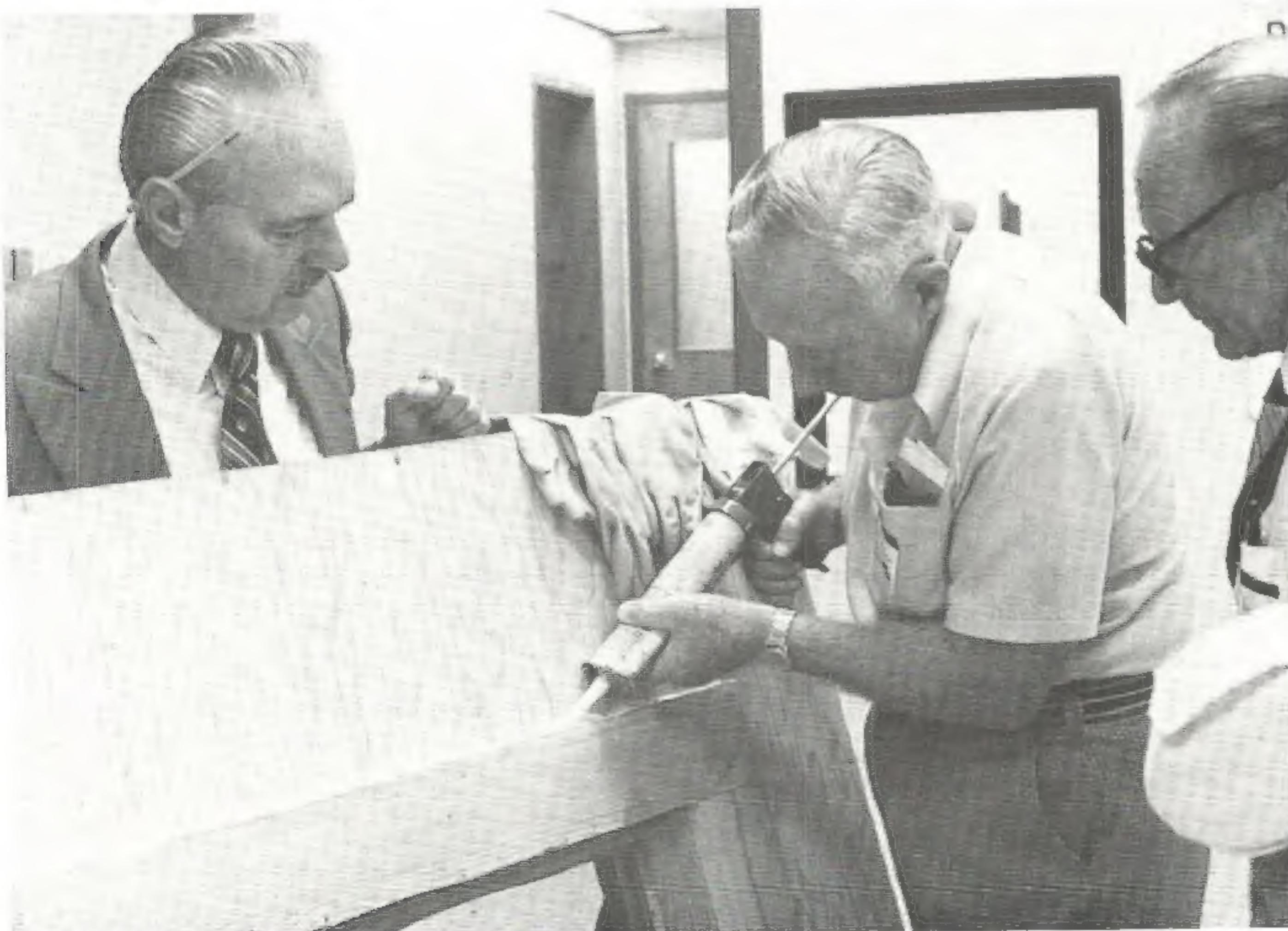
This information gleaned from the three-hour workshops is being passed on to the clients of the agencies the volunteers represent. Attending the seminars were volunteers from the Senior Citizens Service Center of Port Arthur, the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, Program for Human Services, the Nederland Community Chest, the United Board of Missions in Port Arthur and the city of Port Arthur.

Although GSU preaches weatherization on its own,

Kathleen Reed, one of the consumer service representatives who helped organize the workshops, explained the company feels it can reach a much broader audience by training these volunteers. They, in turn, teach others and "you have the multiplier effect in action," she said.

"We felt these 'hands-on' sessions were a good way for the volunteers to gain confidence. By actually doing these things, they learn that it isn't hard and it doesn't cost that much to do," Kathy said.

Rufus Mier, superintendent of consumer services in Port Arthur,



Eddie Bieljeski from South Union Gas Co. looks on as Frank Martin, a volunteer from South East Texas Regional Planning Commission, tries his hand at caulking, under the watchful eye of Gulf Stater Jack Saxon.



A volunteer from the Senior Citizens Service Center of Port Arthur, Emma Larpenter, practices reading an electric meter.

Text and photos by Sharon Englade

told the volunteers there is "a real need to teach our fixed income customers how to do something about their light bills. The cost of electricity is going to double in a few years, and people are going to have to change their lifestyles and weatherize their homes."

"You volunteers will be bringing them the information they need," he added.

To learn how to weatherize, the participants circulated among six "centers" where an instructor was on hand to explain, then help the volunteers actually do the weatherization.

At one center, volunteers

operated caulking guns, sealing a wooden window frame to slow down air infiltration. At another, they donned thick gloves and stuffed insulation batts into "walls" and under "floors." Rolls of plastic sheeting were used at another center to cover screens — and create a low-cost storm window.

Gulf Staters taught the volunteers how to select the proper insulation blanket and wrap a hot water heater, as well as how to install a flow restrictor in a shower head.

Meter reading, complete with an oversized mock-up of the dials,

was taught at one center and the wise use of kitchen appliances along with other energy saving tips at another.

Serving as instructors were Jim Fernandez of the mid-county GSU office, Dan Plunkett, who was recently assigned to the Winnie office, Jack Saxon, Sue Williamson, John Hodges and Kathy Reed.

Tom Clark, supervisor of consumer information, Mier and Kathy Reed organized the workshops.



Port Arthur Consumer Services Representative Kathy Reed passes out tips on the wise use of kitchen appliances.

Golfers compete at Bayou Din

Port Arthur Division golfers held their 1981 Fall Scramble Golf Tournament Saturday, Nov. 14, at Bayou Din Country Club, with Lee Terro, Randy Hebert, Mervin Hebert and Steve Moore making up the winning team.

The second-place team was made up of Ken Girouard, Ronnie Carlin and Ronnie Trevino. Third place went to Gerald Bailey, Carl Byrd, Ed Hutchins and Ted Meinscher. Rufus Mier and Ronnie Carlin won the closest-to-the-hole trophies.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Barbara Broussard, golfers in the division hope to make the scramble an annual event.

Hebert reports new grandchild



Lucien P. "Sonny" Hebert, serviceman-1st class, reported that he has a new granddaughter, Sarah Ruth Haley.

Born Nov. 9 to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Haley of Burkeville, Texas, at Jasper Memorial Hospital, little Sarah weighed five pounds and seven ounces. The Haleys have another daughter, who is now 6.

Hebert, a 35-year GSU veteran, works in the Service Department at Port Arthur T&D.



Puckett given farewell party

A going-away party was held Friday, Nov. 13, for Dan Puckett, consumer services representative who recently transferred from the Port Arthur office to the Winnie office.

Puckett has been with the company since Feb. 17, 1958.

His Port Arthur co-workers gave him a 7½-inch circular saw.



Shower fetes Beaumont pair

Two GSU employees were honored with a bridal shower earlier this year.

The former Sandra Hartley of Beaumont Division Consumer Services and her fiance, Ricky Lynn Frazier of the Substation Department, were presented a new garbage container filled with kitchen utensils.

Laborde announces daughter's birth



Little Erin Lee Laborde weighed a healthy seven pounds and 14 ounces upon her birth Oct. 4, according to her father, Michael Laborde.

A 4½-year GSU employee, Laborde is a project engineer in the Transmission Construction Department. He and his wife, Vickie, make their home in Nederland. Laborde also has a son, 7-year-old Ashley Michael.

Grandparents of the newcomer are Mr. and Mrs. Dave Laborde Sr. of Hessmer, La., and Mr. and Mrs. Belton Deshotel of Mansura, La.



Robillard wins costume contest

Vicky Robillard won the 2nd Annual Halloween Costume Contest for the Baton Rouge Division Accounting Department.

The winner was disguised as Dracula.

Judges for the contest were Jim Moss, division vice president, and Summa Stelly, vice president-Louisiana operations.

Other winners were Jeri Cabaniss, a dancing pink elephant, 2nd place; and Kutay Mahoney, Humpty Dumpty, 3rd place.

Halloween candy was served throughout the day to the children of customers. The entire group of costumed Division Accounting employees is shown above.



Fair Share givers cited

Five Baton Rouge Division employees contributed more than two Fair Shares apiece for the 1982 United Way campaign.

They represented a total of 12 Fair Shares.

Shown with the division co-chairmen are (from left to right) Richard East, co-chairman; Steve

Chapman, Denham Springs T&D; Billy Tadlock, co-chairman; Ken Johnson, Louisiana Station; Anthony Williams, Substation Department; Daniel Brown, Gonzales Line Department; Dan Campbell, Willow Glen Station; and Leonard Crank, co-chairman.

Beaumonters hold Cajun feast



Red beans with sausage, dirty rice, jambalaya and courtbouillon were among the French-flavored items on the menu in the Beaumont Main Office on Nov. 4 during a Cajun feast for Financial Services employees.

Among those contributing to the meal was Calvin Hebert, vice president-Financial Services, who, assisted by his wife, prepared courtbouillon.



Davidson moves to Beaumont

Jim Davidson was honored by his Baton Rouge Division co-workers with a going-away party on Nov. 3.

Formerly supervisor-consumer services for the division, Davidson has since been moved to Beaumont, where he presently serves as director-solar project.

In the photograph, Davidson admires the picture he was given as a gift.



Daigle assists with collection

Fabien Daigle, a foreman based at the Baton Rouge Substation Department, has helped Knights of Columbus Council No. 2807 collect over \$11,000 in donations for retarded children.

Last year, Daigle's chapter placed first in the state of Louisiana for the amount of contributions. Twelve councils are located in the Baton Rouge area, according to *Plain Talks* correspondent Adelaide Bankston.

Deaton, Dooley 'slave' at Nelson



Deaton, Dooley

Two Nelson Coal Plant clerks "slaved" throughout the day on Oct. 30, reports *Plain Talks* correspondent Myra Castello.

The two — Anne Deaton and Cathy Dooley — dressed up in balls and chains and togas in observance of Halloween.

A third employee — Dave Simmons — brought homemade pumpkin rolls to work that day.

Phi Kappa Phi inducts Roffman

Mark Alan Roffman was one of 39 persons inducted into the Lamar University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society recently.

Roffman, the son of Fred Roffman, a senior engineering assistant at the Beaumont service center, is majoring in chemical engineering at Lamar. In other school activities, he was recognized as an outstanding scholar for the 1980-81 academic year and was a recipient of the Diamond Shamrock scholarship for chemical engineering.

A senior, Roffman had to rank in the top 10 percent of the December 1981 or May 1982 graduating class to qualify for induction in the honor society.

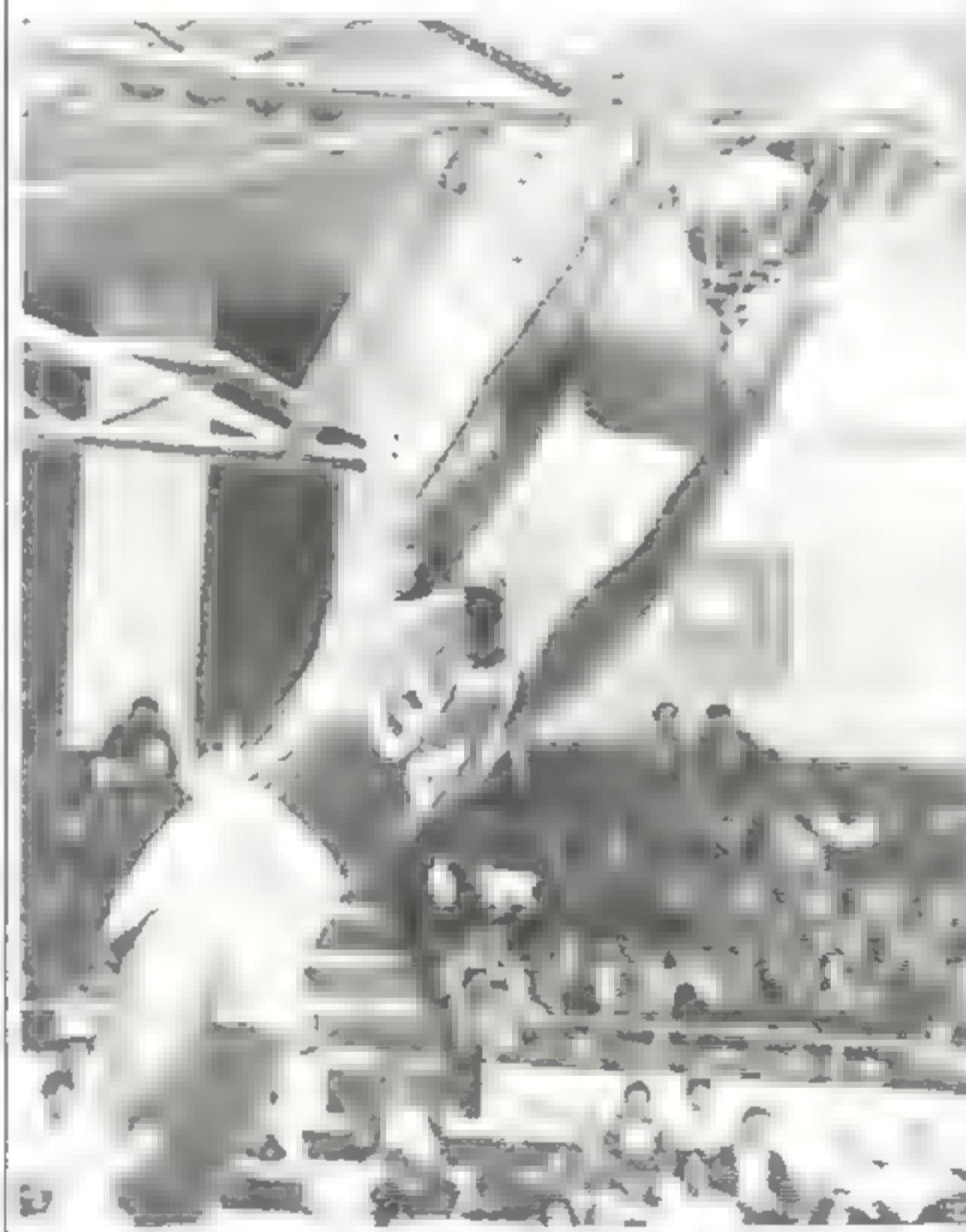
Clark named slam dunk champ

Chris Clark, an apprentice for the Lake Charles T&D Line Department, recently won the

McNeese State University annual slam dunk competition for the fourth straight year.

A friend of Clark's, who makes his home in Las Vegas, told some folks about Clark's dunking style, and that's how he wound up in the glittery casino city facing off with Darrell Griffith, National Basketball Association rookie of the year, Reggie Theus of the Chicago Bulls and 11 other competitors.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Edith Patterson, Clark didn't even play college basketball. Nevertheless, about a thousand basketball fans assembled in Las Vegas' Rancho High School gym while the competitors warmed up and then showed off in the competition with five dunks apiece.



Among the shots that Clark performed without a hitch were the "180-Degree Dunk," "Rock the Cradle," the "Ghetto Dunk" and the "Two-Ball Dunk." There was no drum roll, but "when they announced I was going to try four at once (Clark's specialty), everybody started oohing and ahing," Clark recalled later.

"It would be nice to report that everything went off according to plan," he admitted, but such was not the case. He explained, "I missed the one with the left hand, the first one I go with. I usually come back with the right hand

and jam the others through, but when I saw the first one bounce off, I knew that was that. It wasn't going to go. I didn't get enough height with my jump."

Despite his bad luck, Clark finished sixth in the 14-man field — ahead of Chicago's Theus.

Entering dunk contests is not the only way Clark keeps up with basketball. He plays in a city recreation league and has refereed at high school, little league and college games.

Broussard moves to Nelson Coal



Wayne Broussard was given a going-away party by his former Orange co-workers in early November as he was promoted from storekeeper, Orange, to materials site foreman, Nelson Coal Plant.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Doris Wallace, Broussard received a number of "useful" items, including "enough rope to hang himself," a satirical copy of his job description, a gold-colored hardhat and a radio.

Deaths given

Two active employees recently died.

They were Craig A. Bobb of Port Arthur T&D Line Department, who died Nov 4, and Billie R. Belvin of Lake Charles T&D Garage, who died Dec. 7.

RETIREE UPDATE

Emery honored on retirement

George Emery, along with his wife Mamie, was honored with a retirement party on Oct. 29.

A 32-year veteran of Gulf States, Emery began his career with the company in the Gas Department. He was later transferred to building and maintenance on North Boulevard as a utility worker.

As a going-away gift, Emery received a new wallet filled with money.

Stracener retires after 40 years

Claude W. Stracener and his wife, Ruth, were honored with a retirement party on Nov. 12. At the time, Beaumont Division Vice President Arden Loughmiller presented Stracener with a 40-year service pin and Si Krebs gave him a gift from his co-workers.

Stracener spent most of his years with the company based in the Beaumont Service Department. He and his wife plan to spend retirement between their home in Lumberton and their home at Sam Rayburn.

Neches Station employees retire

Four longtime Neches Station employees retired earlier this year.

They included John V. Lasyon, shift supervisor, who retired on May 1; Albert J. Reaux, shift supervisor, who retired July 1; J. D. Wilson, shift supervisor, who retired July 1; and H. T. Henriksen, operations supervisor, who retired Aug. 1.

Beaumont group holds election

Members of the Beaumont Side-liners Club again named Victor Gayle as their president during

an election on Nov. 20.

The election was held during the retiree group's regular monthly meeting at Moncla's.

Other officers for 1982 are W. T. Buckley, vice president, and Helen Byrd, secretary-treasurer.

The Cardinal Singers from Lamar University entertained the noon gathering.

In other business, member Al Bowen announced that he was beginning planning for a bus trip to the world's fair in Knoxville, Tenn., next year, and advised interested members of any of the company's retiree groups to contact him.

McCullar receives Mason degree

L. C. McCullar of Vidor has been selected by the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masons in Washington, D.C. to receive the 33rd Degree, the highest awarded by the order.

A 31-year resident of Vidor, McCullar recently retired after 41 years with Gulf States.

McCullar received the degree award during a special ceremony Nov. 23 in Houston.

He has previously held the title of knight commander, court of honor, an intermediate step between the 32nd and 33rd degree levels.

According to an announcement from the Supreme Council, the degree honors are rather rare, with only five others in the Galveston-Beaumont area and approximately 20 knight commanders.

McCullar has been a master Mason since 1958. He is a past worshipful master of Vidor Masonic Lodge AF&AM 1286. He is also a past secretary of the local lodge and past district deputy of the 25th Masonic District.

McCullar is a deacon of the Vidor First Baptist Church, a past president of the Vidor Chamber of Commerce and a past secretary of the Rotary Club.

Gertrude Peckham dies Nov. 27

Memorial services for Gertrude C. Peckham, 77, of Beaumont were held Monday, Nov. 30, at Forest Park Methodist Church in Beaumont with cremation in Brookside Memorial Park under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home in Vidor.

She died Friday, Nov. 27, at Baptist Hospital following an illness.

She was the widow of the late J. Roy Peckham Sr., a GSU retiree. Survivors include her son, J. Roy Peckham Jr., a GSU employee in the T&D Engineering Department at the Beaumont Service Center.

A native of Lake Charles, she was a former resident of Kerrville, Texas.

Lloyd Bell dies in Beaumont

Services for Lloyd Desmond Bell, 54, of Beaumont, were held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at Forest Lawn Funeral Home with burial in Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Bell, a native of Rule, Texas, retired Dec. 1 as an assistant general line foreman for Gulf States.

He had lived in Beaumont 35 years and was a veteran of the Korean War.

Survivors include his wife, Bernita Bell of Beaumont; one son, Tim Kellison of Beaumont; four daughters, Susan Long, Amy Bell and Saige Bell, all of Beaumont, and Elizabeth Z. Broussard of Lufkin; two brothers, Elton Bell of Huntsville, Wyatt Bell of Woodville; three sisters, Irene Wendeborn of Rusk, Mildred Duncan of Livingston, and Billie Knepshield of Spring, Texas, and two grandchildren.

ON THE MOVE

Ancelot, Harvey J. Jr., Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Ashley, Thomas W. Jr., Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.
Augustine, Melvin R., Lafayette, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.
Babineaux, Joseph H., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.
Banks, Vanessa C., Baton Rouge, to helper, Gas Dept.
Barnes, Paul D., Baton Rouge, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D.
Bates, Dennis M., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Batiste, Stanley, Lafayette, to serviceman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Beavers, Brenda M., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Bellow, James W., Baton Rouge, to material coordinator, T&D Operations.
Blanchard, John S., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.
Bob, Sidney J., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Engineering Design.
Borski, Darrell J., Conroe, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.
Bourgeois, Stephen P., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Boyce, Richard B., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.
Breux, Dwayne M., Baton Rouge, to serviceman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Brooka, Gary W., Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.
Buford, Susan A., Nelson Coal, to equipment operator, Plant Production.
Bullard, Larry R., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Gas Dept.
Burdette, Bobby J. Jr., Zachary, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Burnett, Thomas D., formerly of Beaumont, to outage supervisor, System Production, Willow Glen Station.
Burrell, Mamie B., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.
Bush, Clarence E. Jr., Louisiana Station, to second fireman, Plant Production.
Bushnell, Raymus D., Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.
Cannon, Lee O., Nelson Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.
Castile, Ilona M., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Office Services.
Castle, Darrell G., Baton Rouge, to engineering assistant, Electric T&D.
Caywood, William C., Beaumont, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.
Chapman, Stephen W., Denham Springs, to serviceman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Clark, Alfred Jr., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.
Clark, Christopher J., Lake Charles, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Colleps, Glenn M., Baton Rouge, to helper, T&D, Helper Crews.
Countess, Susan R., Lafayette, to stenographer-senior, Electric T&D.
Crain, Richard K., Baton Rouge, to engineering assistant, Electric T&D.
Crile, Larry R., Vidor, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Croft, Ree V., Baton Rouge, to engineering assistant, Electric T&D.
Cross, Autholine H., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Treasury.
Cutrer, Donald K., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.
Davis, Donald R., Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.
Davis, Donny G., Denham Springs, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Deka, Marianne C., Marianne C., Beaumont, to stenographer senior, Electric T&D.
Deshazo, Carla D., Port Arthur, to stenographer-senior, Division Accounting.
Drawhorn, Sandra H., Beaumont, to test technician 1st class, Plant Production.
Eaves, Ronald H., Sabine Station, to mechanical maintenance foreman, Plant Production.

England, Rebecca L., Beaumont, to secretary, Fuel Services.
English, Clifton O., Port Arthur, to repairman 3rd class, Plant Production.
Etie, Pamela C., Nelson Coal, to storeroom assistant, Plant Production.
Evans, Charles E., Baton Rouge, to engineering assistant, Electric T&D.
Faires, Ethel W., Port Arthur, to master technician, Plant Production.
Fauntleroy, Donald E., Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.
Fenner, Ervin L., Navasota, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Fontenot, Ramona R., Lafayette, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services.
Ford, Walter R., Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.
Foster, Craig P., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Fountain, Michael O., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Fowler, Karla S., Conroe, to stenographer, Division Consumer Services.
Galassi, Frank G., Huntsville, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Garner, Gary M., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.
Garon, Gerald W., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Gordon, James W. Jr., Port Arthur, to collector, Division Accounting.
Gracey, LeNelle N., Beaumont, to assistant inventory analyst, Materials Management.
Graham, Bertie S., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Real Estate.
Greer, Charles H., Baton Rouge, to utility foreman, T&D Substation.
Guillory, Robert E., Orange, to substation mechanic-1th class, Electric T&D.
Halliburton, Danny L., Port Arthur, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.
Hamilton, Esquardo H., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Hardy, Ernest D. Jr., Nelson Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.
Harrington, Ralph E. Jr., Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Hartner, Dennis M., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.
Hayden, Stephen D., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.
Holton, David E., Beaumont, to engineering helper, Real Estate.
Jackson, Emery J., Louisiana Station, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.
James, Eric M., Port Arthur, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Jeansonne, Steven J. Jr., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Jeffcote, Joel E., formerly of Conroe, to superintendent-Huntsville District, Division Operations.
Jennings, Mark O., Orange, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Jimnez, David, Beaumont, to garage worker, Electric T&D.
Johnson, William Jr., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Jones, Pamela S., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, River Bend Nuclear Group.
Kasper, Edward L., Beaumont, to coordinator-teacher & student training, System Consumer Services.
Lambert, Benny, Louisiana Station, to head fireman, Plant Production.
Landry, Larry, Beaumont, to utility worker II, Building Services.
LeBlanc, Tommy C., Beaumont, to garage mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Lee, Mark B., Denham Springs, to lineman 4th class, Electric T&D.
Leggett, Travis L., Zachary, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
LeJune, Randolph C III, Baton Rouge, to engineering helper, Electric T&D.
Lethermon, Michael W., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Lodge, Freddie Jr., Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Loscuito, Michael D., Conroe, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.
McCabe, Gordon D., Woodville, to collector, Division Accounting.
McFadden, Alex Jr., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
McKinley, Marey H., Port Arthur, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.
McMillon, Lemuel R. Jr., Orange, to district substation operator, Electric T&D.
McMullen, James J., Beaumont, to supervisor-salvage & transfer, Materials Management.
Melancon, Roey L., Baton Rouge, to helper, Gas Dept.
Miller, Willie E., Jennings, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Mims, Paul S., Navasota, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.
Mitchell, Daniel R., Woodville, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Mitchell, Herbert L., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic helper Electric T&D.
Moore, Larry G., Jennings, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Myrick, Donald G., New Caney, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Newton, Paul E., Beaumont, to communications serviceman-1st class, Communications.
Orcutt, Lynn L., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior Transmission Construction.
Panepinto, Donald R., Baton Rouge, to helper, T&D/Helper Crews.
Patino, Alan A., Port Arthur, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.
Paul, Robert M. Jr., Lafayette, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Pelichet, Torris J. Jr., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Perry, Roger D., Beaumont, to supervisor-financial planning & analysis, Treasury.
Persley, JoAnn T., Beaumont, to keypunch operator-senior, Computer Applications.
Placker, Dennis R., Dayton, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Potter, Harry H. III, Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Prejean, Marie L., Lake Charles, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.
Prince, Ronald J., Port Arthur, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Rabalais, James S., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.
Reed, Leonard R., Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.
Rice, Raymond E., Lafayette, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.
Rice, Raymond E., Lafayette, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.
Rideau, Raymond, Lake Charles, to garage mechanic helper, Electric T&D.
Rogers, Sandra C., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior Engineering Design.
Root, Lellie S., Port Arthur, to storekeeper Plant Production.
Ryals, David W., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Schlesinger, Byron L., Lake Charles, to apprentice, Electric T&D.
Smith, Mary R., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior River Bend Nuclear Group.
Smith, Morris Jr., Beaumont, to substation mechan.c 2nd class, Electric T&D.
Speeg, Albert D., Willow Glen, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.
Staton, John A., Conroe, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Stephenson, Chris E., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.
Summers, Timothy L., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.
Tate, Kevin A., Baton Rouge, to pipeman 2nd class, Gas Dept.
Taylor, Barry A., Lake Charles, to garage mechanic 2nd class, Electric T&D.
Toussant, Keith B., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.
Waldrep, Gerald W. Jr., Port Arthur, to repairman 2nd class, Plant Production.

Meet Your Correspondent: Edith Patterson of Lake Charles T&D

At one time, Edith Patterson thought she wanted to become a schoolteacher.

But that was before 1961, when she hired on as a clerk in the Transmission and Distribution Line Department in Lake Charles. Finding herself working in what she views as the "pulse" of Gulf States, Ms. Patterson soon fell in love with the people and events of the Line Department. Since 1978, she has worked as assistant to the general line foreman, a position now filled by Dudley Clark. The job requires lots of

paperwork and frequent long hours, especially when weather conditions affect service to customers.

Off the job, she enjoys photography and simply relaxing before her new fireplace. Her family includes two children. Her daughter, Velette, is a research technician at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston and the mother of Ms. Patterson's only grandchild, Lisa, who will be 3 in February. Her son, John, is an equipment operator at Nelson Station.



Ms. Patterson urges employees at the Lake Charles service center who have information they want to share with other employees to contact her at extension 744-2250.

Employees Build 'Cook Shack'

Now, Lafayette district employees have a place to do do and a place to cook gumbo.

Many of the employees based there have strong Cajun accents. And, when they get together for a good time, their food is usually French-flavored, too.

John Landry, assistant general line foreman, tore down an old barn on his Vermillion Parish farm and donated the sturdy materials to the company to construct a cooking building.

Employees served as weekend carpenters, finally completing the small structure this past spring. The facility is equipped with a sink, stove and refrigerator. A shed protects the area just in front of the cook shack, which is located right behind the Lafayette office's still-new assembly hall. Whenever the company hosts an employee gumbo dinner or barbecue, employees can simply move



straight into the eating area after filling their plates, noted *Plain Talks* correspondent Brenda Myers.

The assembly hall has also

been the scene of some lively dances, she added. Retirement and promotion parties, as well as safety dinners, have utilized both structures.

Utilities endorse Clinch River site

The nation's electric power systems pledged their continued support in early December to the Clinch River Project and urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to act promptly in approving a request to authorize site preparation for the nation's first large-scale demonstration breeder reactor.

The Department of Energy (DOE) filed a request on Nov. 30 with the NRC for authorization to begin site preparation for the Clinch River Plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn., by next March. This approval would allow such activities as site clearing, grading, excavation and construction of service and temporary support facilities.

"NRC approval of this request would, according to the DOE, save taxpayers from \$120 million to \$240 million in additional costs and avoid delays of one to two years," stated William McCollam Jr., president of Edison Electric Institute. "We commend the department for requesting the NRC to take this cost-and-time-savings approach. The nation's electric power systems have consistently supported the Clinch River Project as an essential next step in developing the breeder reactor option as a major source of electric power in the next century. We need to develop this vast energy potential so the United States can achieve energy independence."

Under the proposed licensing schedule, the NRC would conduct all necessary reviews and hearings required in the public interest. The Nov. 30 request to the NRC was made in accordance with a section of the Code of Federal Regulations which was enacted in 1972 to meet the needs of applicants on a timely basis and to avoid unnecessary costs to applicants and consumers.

To facilitate an early start for

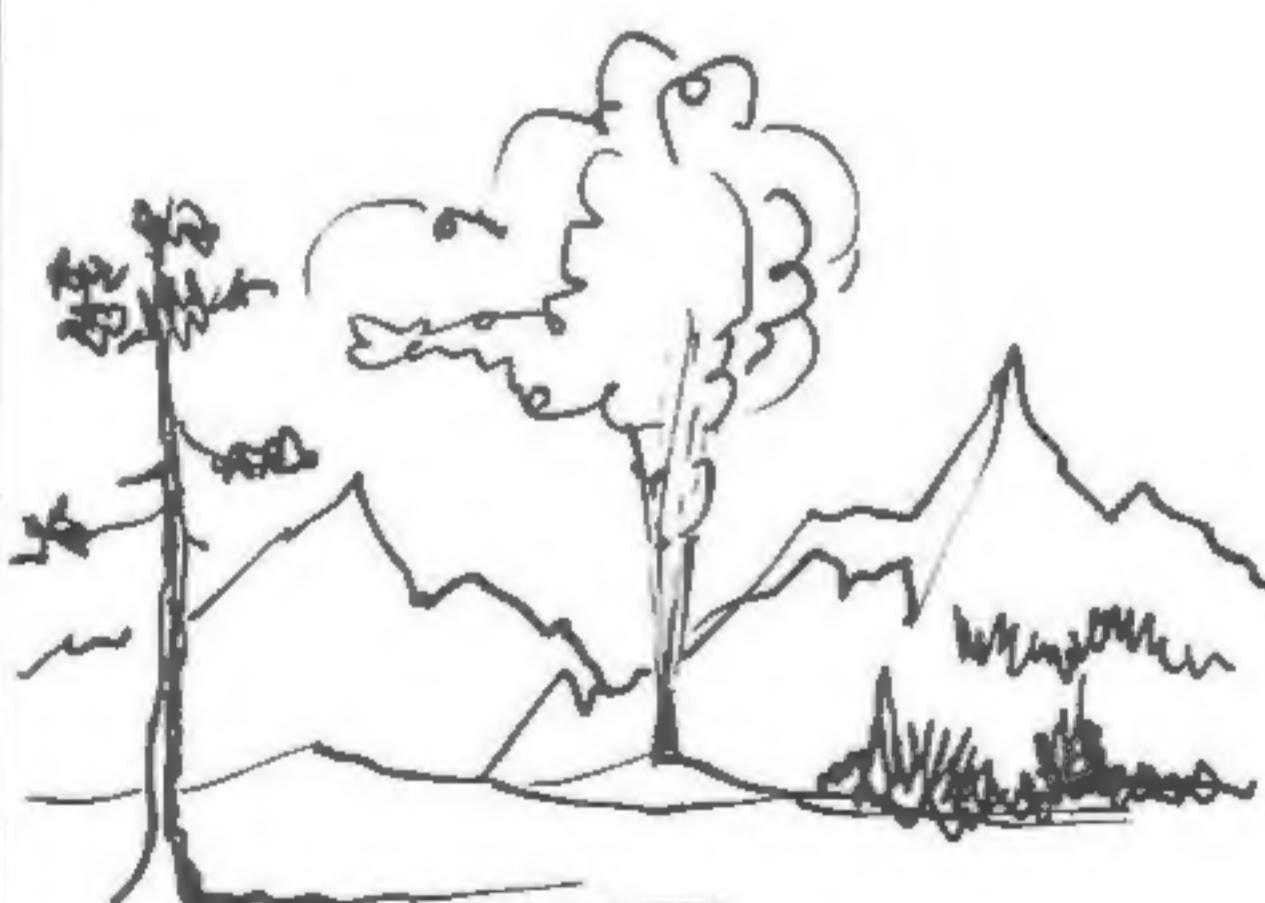
site preparation, the project's constructor, Stone & Webster Engineering Corp. of Boston, Mass., will invite competitive bids in early January to interested and pre-qualified firms.

The site preparation and excavation for the plant is expected to take place over a 14-month period. The contract for that portion of the work, expected to be awarded in late March subject to authorization from the NRC, is expected to total from \$35-50 million.

Turbine to tap geothermal energy

A new type of turbine, designed to help electric utilities tap geothermal energy resources locked beneath the earth's crust, has been developed under funding provided by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).

Developed for EPRI by Biphase Energy Systems Inc., a joint venture of Research-Cottrell and Transamerica Delaval Inc., the new turbine uses a total flow and phase separation to increase the overall conversion efficiencies of geothermal steam and hot water mixtures.



Called a rotary separator turbine, the new device separates steam from hot water at a geothermal wellhead so the steam can be used in a steam turbine. The new turbine generates electricity in the process. A prototype unit is now generating power for customers of Utah Power & Light Co. as part of a field test program.

Geothermal fluid for the test is being provided by Phillips Petroleum from its reservoir at Roosevelt Hot Springs, near Milford in southwestern Utah. The prototype unit is capable of producing up to 1600 kilowatts of electricity.

Listeners believe Paul Harvey

Radio commentator Paul Harvey has one of the biggest audiences in the country, a recent survey showed.

Harvey, whose distinctive news commentary is on a nationwide radio hookup, is partially sponsored by the Electric Information Council.

In a nationwide survey conducted by Cambridge Reports of Pittsburgh, Pa., nearly six out of 10 respondents indicated that they listen to Harvey. And those who do listen to him find Harvey a credible spokesman.

"Paul Harvey's credibility, as well as his visibility, is also high," said Cambridge Reports. "Eight out of 10 respondents who listen to him say he is very or somewhat believable on energy issues."

Cambridge interviewed 1,449 adult Americans during August and September to compile the survey results.

More Comments

(Continued from page 19.)
with the regulations, should be applied as Congress strives to reduce the costly complexities and red tape associated with parts of the act.

Gulf States and the rest of the electric utility industry is dedicated to modifying the Clean Air Act so that the law continues to promote environmental progress but, at the same time, becomes responsive to the nation's economic and social needs.

— by Sharon Englade

Revisions Needed for Clean Air Act

Debate over the future of the Clean Air Act, the complex and expensive package of laws that protects the nation's air, is finally gaining momentum in the halls of Congress.

Gulf States believes Congress should concentrate on much-needed revisions that will make the laws a more effective, yet less costly, mechanism for continued improvement to the air we all breathe.

Public health must be protected, but when dollars spent on technology and equipment to upgrade air quality result in only marginal improvements, it becomes time for Congress to step in and balance the nation's commitment to clean air with other national goals, such as improving energy supplies, creating jobs and modernizing industry's production capacity.

Changes should be made in the rules and regulations that have impeded economic progress without significantly improving air quality, provisions that have cost the utility industry — and ultimately its customers — millions of dollars.

A study conducted by National Economics Research Associates Inc. concluded that overall costs of complying with the Clean Air Act were about twice the benefits derived from it. In 1978, the regulations cost consumers \$16.8 billion, compared with \$8.5 billion in benefits, the study reported.

By authorizing reasonable changes in several key areas of the act, the nation's lawmakers could ensure that clean air standards would be maintained while the complexities and costs associated with these regulations would be reduced.

Two areas of concern to utilities are the national air quality standards and the hazardous emission

standards. The air quality standards, the very backbone of the Clean Air Act, are designed to protect the most sensitive members of the population, such as asthmatics, with an "adequate margin of safety" added on. The size of that margin is not scientifically derived and an arbitrary margin can mean enormous and unjustified costs to industry and to the public.

Congress should require the clean air standards and safety margins be based on valid scientific foundations and be subject to review by a group of independent scientific experts.

Similar action should be taken in the case of hazardous air pollutants, toxic substances known to cause health problems. The margins of safety should be based on valid assessments of health risks, and on economic, energy, environmental and other social factors. The public must be protected against unreasonable risk — not zero risk — with the standards designed to meet this criteria.

New source performance standards, as amended in 1977, and prevention of significant deterioration regulations impose very stringent and expensive emission control requirements for new power plants, technologies and procedures which drive up the cost of new generation and the future price of electric service.

In revising the new source standards, Congress should consider removing the requirement that extraordinary emission controls be installed, provided the control method proposed keeps pollutants below the levels dictated by the national air quality standards. Utilities should be allowed to reduce emissions and control pollutants in the most cost-effective manner.

A provision requiring new

plant regulations to undergo cost-benefit analyses before performance standards are implemented should be added to the act.

At the heart of the program designed to prevent significant deterioration of the air in areas already meeting clean air standards — attainment areas — is the regulation that permits one-time-only small increases — increments — in the concentration of pollutants.

To comply with these detailed regulations and guidelines, a utility company desiring to build a new plant or expand an existing facility must submit to a long and burdensome permitting process. This drawn-out procedure serves only to delay construction of new and cleaner plants, escalating the cost of new generating units.

Congress should eliminate the increment system in most clean air areas and allow the national air quality standards to provide the protection they were designed to give to the health and welfare of the nation.

By requiring compliance with new source standards and by streamlining preconstruction review to assure special protection for pristine areas of the nation, virtually the same level of air quality would be achieved at a tremendous savings that would be reflected in customers' electric bills.

Since the birth of the Clean Air Act more than a decade ago, new scientific and technological data have been developed, leading to a better understanding of the effects of air pollution. During that same time frame, the ability to control air pollution has also advanced.

This information, as well as the experience gained in working

(Continued on page 18.)

PLAIN TALKS

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Q. ■
A. ■

What did the royal wedding do to England's electricity system?

It created seven huge surges in demand, each following a climactic moment in the televised spectacle. The 1,800-megawatt peak — from a 17,000 Mw base level — came when the honeymooners departed. The state-owned utility "had barely enough plant on standby to meet the final surge," *Energy Daily* reported.

